

DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION

2006 – 2011 Strategic Plan

(2007 – 2008 Tasks)

Strategic Work Plan Goals for Implementation of the Regional Plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta

Reader's Note: In this section of the Strategic Work Plan, text in paragraph form is taken from the Regional Plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta, adopted pursuant to the Delta Protection Act. Text in bullet point form has been added as a result of the visioning process.

1. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL PLAN FOR THE PRIMARY ZONE OF THE DELTA

Goals:

Complete summary of accomplished policy recommendations cited in the Management Plan.

- Establish priority/timeline for completion of remaining tasks.
- Identify unaddressed areas.
- Develop tools for proactive “integration” of Management Plan into local general plans and planning resources resulting in a positive rather than adversarial image for the Commission.

2007 / 2008 Tasks	Quarterly Status
Promote inclusion of Delta Element in Delta County General Plans to document policies of the Land Use and Resource Management Plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta for implementation in local land use decisions.	Solano County is addressing in Resource Chapter. Sacramento County is addressing in Element.
Initiate process to consider updating/amending the Land Use and Resource Management Plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta and/or establish priorities for implementation of recommendations.	Concept for process has been developed by staff and Center for Collaborative Policy for Commissioner consideration.
Play an integral role in assuring Commission and stakeholder input into the Delta visioning and implementation processes.	Six Commission members sit in stakeholder group and Executive Director serves on the Planning team to assure stakeholder avenue of communication. Information is provided via Delta Protection Commission electronic mailing lists and website.

2. ENVIRONMENT

Goals: Preserve and protect the natural resources of the Delta, including soils. Promote protection of remnants of riparian habitat. Promote seasonal flooding and agriculture practices on agricultural lands to maximize wildlife use of the hundreds of thousands of acres of lands in the Delta. Promote levee maintenance and rehabilitation to preserve the land areas and channel configurations in the Delta.

- Enhance educational awareness of the benefits of an adaptive working landscapes approach to managing agricultural and habitat resources in the Delta.
- Explore options for balancing environmental mitigation with other land uses, including agriculture and flood protection.
- Explore options for land use practices (Best Management Practices) that reduce or reverse subsidence e.g., Sherman Island.

2007 / 2008 Tasks	Quarterly Status
Implement Lower Bypass Collaborative in partnership with Yolo Basin Foundation, Department of Fish and Game and Center for Collaborative Policy.	Contract signed between Department of Fish and Game and Center for Collaborative Policy. Kickoff Field Tour and BBQ planned for February/March 2008.
Promote habitat friendly levee maintenance, where determined to be appropriate.	Working Landscapes grant demonstration projects will include habitat friendly levee maintenance. Contract to implement grant is being finalized.
Promote coordination/consistency between Bay Delta Conservation Plan and Delta local habitat conservation plans.	Another meeting of Resources Agency Bay Delta Conservation Plan and Delta HCP planners planned for February 2008.
Promote stakeholder input in proposals for development of mitigation banks in areas such as Liberty and Prospect Islands.	Disseminating information as it becomes available, including Bureau of Reclamation activities on Prospect Island, and Wildlands on Liberty Island.

3. UTILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Goal: Protect the Delta from excessive construction of utilities and infrastructure facilities, including those that support uses and development outside the Delta. Where construction of new utility and infrastructure facilities is appropriate, ensure the impacts of such new construction on the integrity of levees, wildlife, and agriculture are minimized.

- Pursue sources of reference relative to transportation related issues in the Delta.
- Consider long-term impact mitigation opportunities.

2007 / 2008 Tasks	Quarterly Status
Pursue authority to include a member with transportation expertise on the Commission.	Legislative proposal submitted to Resources Agency, has not been recommended for submittal to Governor's office.

Participate in the Delta Risk Management process as a member of the Steering Committee.	Participated in all steering committee meetings as member.
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4. LAND USE

Goals: Protect the unique character and qualities of the Primary Zone by preserving the cultural heritage and strong agricultural base of the Primary Zone. Direct new residential, commercial, and industrial development within the existing communities as currently designated and where appropriate services are available.

- Develop tools for establishing a baseline for resources in the Primary Zone.

2007 / 2008 Tasks	Quarterly Status
Promote inclusion of Delta Element in Delta County General Plans.	Reviewed Solano County General Plan draft Delta policies and NOP for Delta chapter.
Coordinate with Delta counties to assure Delta Checklist is utilized as tool for projects in the Delta.	Checklist provided to five Delta county planning departments.
Consolidate project monitoring lists to document annual comparisons over time.	Annual Report to Legislature compares 2005/2006/2007 projects reviewed by the Commission.
Support Delta branding efforts to promote Delta stewardship.	<p>Welcome to Delta signs posted in Yolo, Solano, Sacramento, and San Joaquin Counties. Signs currently being made by Contra Costa County.</p> <p>Developing marketing concept for Delta as a place to live, work, and play.</p>
State engaged in Delta Vision discussions relative to governance.	Provided letter recommending tools to develop governance structure using existing models and authorities and establishment of benchmark and timeframe based on statewide input via Delta Vision.

5. AGRICULTURE

Goal: Support long-term viability of commercial agriculture and discourage inappropriate development of agricultural lands.

- Establish forum for Delta-wide collaboration among agricultural interests on common activities and issues.
- Establish a program for Delta agricultural easements.

2007 / 2008 Tasks	Quarterly Status
Implement working landscapes grant demonstration projects with Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, and Hart Restoration.	Working with Department of Fish and Game to finalize contract.
Facilitate development of a volunteer Delta-wide agricultural easement program.	Map overlays completed. Meeting planned for February. Next level of involvement to include land use planners and agricultural agencies in Delta.
Develop and implement Delta-wide rodent control program as it relates to levee maintenance.	Initial contacts made with existing San Joaquin County and Contra Costa County contract sources.
Assure agricultural interest perspective is included in Delta Trail planning process.	When stakeholder interviews begin in 2008, agriculture will be included.

6. WATER

Goal: Protect long-term water quality in the Delta for agriculture, municipal, industrial, water-contact recreation, and fish and wildlife habitat uses, as well as all other designated beneficial uses.

- Develop programs for Delta-wide collaboration to effectively and efficiently address water quality issues including salinity intrusion.
- Participate in data collection/monitoring programs relative to salinity (X2).

2007 / 2008 Tasks	Quarterly Status
Participate in State Water Plan update process, as member of regional steering committee, to assure Delta stakeholder input.	Participated in all meetings as a member of the Planning Design Team.
Support solicitation of funding for mercury monitoring through legislative opportunities and resource bonds.	Continuing to review pertinent legislation.
Provide input into development of South Delta and North Delta Improvements Programs.	On hold.
Engage in Delta Vision discussions pertaining to water conveyance alternatives via Commission Member representation on the DV Stakeholder Committee.	Provided Commission with letters to BRTF from Commissioner member entities.

7. RECREATION AND ACCESS

Goals: Promote continued recreational use of the land and waters of the Delta. Ensure that needed facilities that allow such uses are constructed, maintained, and supervised. Protect

landowners from unauthorized recreational uses on private lands. Maximize dwindling public funds for recreation by promoting public-private partnerships and multiple use of Delta lands.

- Establish programs for recognition of the value of recreational access to appreciate the unique resources of the Delta.

2007 / 2008 Tasks	Quarterly Status
Facilitate feasibility and planning process for The Great California Delta Trail.	Prepared RFP for consultant. Selected Consultant. Applied for Caltrans Partnership Grant Funds.
Facilitate and support Delta branding efforts to promote recognition of Delta resources.	County signage installed. Developing marketing concept for Delta as a place to live, work, and play.
Seek funding for completion of Riparian / Terrestrial component of Recreation Master Plan Strategy.	Continuing.
Develop geographic information system to document existing recreational facilities in the Delta.	To be accomplished as part of The Delta Trail Planning process.

8. LEVEES

Goals: Support the improvement and long-term maintenance of Delta levees by coordinating permit reviews and guidelines for levee maintenance. Develop a long-term funding program for levee maintenance. Protect levees in emergency situations. Give levee rehabilitation and maintenance the priority over other uses of levee areas.

- Pursue efforts to enhance recognition of public health and safety as a priority.

2007 / 2008 Tasks	Quarterly Status
Facilitate collaboration of Delta-wide emergency planning and response efforts in partnership with Office of Emergency Services, Center for Collaborative Policy, and Delta County OES Team, and potential partners including Corps, DWR and Coast Guard.	Project underway. Meeting held among partners. Assisted in development of Delta Vision context memo on Emergency Planning. Planning team formed via contracts. Facilitation process underway.
Participate in development of Long-term Management Strategy for Dredging as member of the Executive Committee and Management Committee.	Provided input on process and timeline. Executive Director representation on Management Committee.

Engage in Delta Risk Management Strategy through participation on the Steering Committee.	Providing input on drafts. Participated in public workshops in Rio Vista.
Provide input on infrastructure bonds and legislation to express support for public health and safety projects.	Circulating Flood Safe information. Participated in workshops to determine funding opportunities, particularly, for Emergency Planning Effort.

9. MARINE PATROL, BOATER EDUCATION, AND SAFETY PROGRAMS

Goals:

- Pursue opportunities for development of Delta-wide programs to enhance boater awareness and an appreciation for recreational boating.

2007 / 2008 Tasks	Quarterly Status
Facilitate forum for collaboratively addressing abandoned vessel issue with a Delta-wide approach.	Planning meeting for spring 2008. Facilitated process to address Mayberry Slough abandoned barge and spuds and marker buoys.
Include potential to develop water trails in Delta Trail feasibility and planning process.	Met with Association of Bay Area Governments staff and others to discuss potential opportunities.

Strategic Work Plan Goals for Program Administration

1. PUBLIC RELATIONS

Goals:

Recognition as the voice of those that live, work, and play in the Delta, consistent with the Regional Plan and the Delta Protection Act.

- Become proactive, integral part of local and regional land use and visioning processes.

2007 / 2008 Tasks	Quarterly Status
Facilitate dissemination of information to Delta stakeholders relative to Delta resources.	Information distributed via Interested Parties List and website posting. Exhibit
Participate as a member of the Resource Agency Public Information Team to provide Delta perspective at State agency level.	Regularly attending Public Information Officers' weekly meetings. Attended State Information Officers Training Session.
Promote Delta stewardship and branding through education and proactive outreach.	Ongoing facilitation of tours, panel participation and workshops. Sponsored 3 sites as part of Coastal Cleanup.
Enhance public affairs/outreach tools.	Including more information on website and trails.

2. BUDGET

Goals:

- Develop Budget Maintenance Program.
- Identify and pursue opportunities for long-term funding sustainability.

2007 / 2008 Tasks	Quarterly Status
Submit Budget Change Proposal for 2008/2009 FY as determined necessary to maintain sustainable budget.	Concept for Commission alternates has been submitted and accepted for legislative sponsorship. Concept for Transportation representative not recommended.
Implement adopted concept for Commission Member contributions to Commission budget for continued effective implementation of the Management Plan and Strategic Plan.	Invoices submitted to member entities for contributions.

Enhance budget reimbursement opportunities.	Invoices submitted for RC&D reimbursement Receiving Lower Bypass Collaborative grant funding.
Proactively seek grant fund/special funding opportunities.	Applied for Caltrans grant for Delta Trail in January. Several others in first quarter 2008.

3. STAFFING

Goals:

- Develop comprehensive human resource program, consistent with State requirements and policies.
- Evaluate long-term position expertise and level needs.

2007 / 2008 Tasks	Quarterly Status
Upgrade office equipment as needed to support effective staff functions.	Established additional work station.
Complete upgrade of Executive Director position.	Documentation prepared for submittal to Secretary for Resources.

4. COMMISSIONERS

Goals:

- Develop and implement Commissioner Orientation package.
- Enhance Commissioner meeting attendance.

2007 / 2008 Tasks	Quarterly Status
Seek authority to appoint member alternates.	Proposal submitted for current legislative session.
Develop Commission Member orientation materials.	Orientation convened for new Commissioners.
Analyze feasibility of having meetings at various locations throughout the Delta.	Proposal submitted for Commission consideration on January 24, 2008.

5. LEGISLATION

Goals:

- Develop tools for effective influence through legislative authority.

2007 / 2008 Tasks	Quarterly Status
Upgrade Commission regulations as determined necessary to implement legislative mandates.	Draft regulations provided for Commission consideration for January 24, 2008.

Identify legislation warranting formal Commission positions.	Commission took neutral position on SB 555 (Machado) and support position on SB 669 (Torlakson).
Identify potential areas for seeking sponsorship of legislation on behalf of Commission.	Commission Alternates legislation.
Utilize Resources Agency and Commissioner Member staffing resources for legislative tracking and submit bill analyses as determined appropriate.	Bill analyses submitted for SB 555 (Machado) and SB 669 (Torlakson).